

S-E-C-R-E-T

24 February 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR: Bureau Chiefs

SUBJECT: Letter of Information

GENERAL

1. Services on Vietnam: High-level interest in news, official pronouncements, and propaganda related to the Vietnam war intensified even more in late January and throughout February, and there was a continuing demand for swift, accurate reporting and analysis by FBIS. During a visit to FBIS, Mr. Arthur McCafferty of the White House Situation Room briefed staff members on the means by which the vast flood of material on Vietnam received in the White House is channeled to Mr. McGeorge Bundy and the President. He indicated that FBIS Wire material and the RPD Trends and Surveys are screened regularly in the Situation Room for items to be passed on to Mr. Bundy and his staff and, in some instances, the President. Mr. McCafferty cited as one example of a report read personally by Mr. Bundy the 6 January FBIS Survey supplement on Vietnam, which drew on source materials from FBIS Bureaus worldwide to interpret the tone and content of communist reaction to the U.S. peace initiatives. In response to Mr. Bundy's later request for an updating, the next (20 January) Survey article on Vietnam was distributed in advance to the White House along with advance copies of the Trends which the Situation Room receives regularly. Mr. McCafferty said Vietnam was currently the overriding preoccupation of Mr. Bundy's staff and termed FBIS' services "invaluable" and "immeasurable."

Special analysis services on Vietnam during the month included a summation of Soviet propaganda behavior on the issue of aid to North and South Vietnam and a collation of statements by East European leaders on the aid Vietnam issue since July 1965, for ORR. Questions to which RPD responded during the month from State, OCI, and other offices revolved primarily around the aid issue following the plea for increased bloc aid in Ho Chi Minh's letter to heads of state; the role and precise program of the South Vietnam "Liberation Front"; DRV Defense Minister Giap's article on "people's war"; DRV Politburo and Secretariat member Le Duc Tho's article suggesting high-level differences in the North Vietnamese party; and communist reactions to the Security Council sessions on Vietnam and the Honolulu conference. Statistics were compiled for USIA on Soviet broadcasts charging the United States with chemical and bacteriological warfare in Vietnam during 1965.

Intensification of the Vietnam war and accompanying issues was also reflected in FBIS Wire output. The Wire Service broke its previous record of 60,298 words carried on the day following President Kennedy's assassination when the file totaled 60,758 and 60,414 words respectively on 1 and 2 February, the two days immediately following cessation of the pause in the bombing of North Vietnam.

Group 1

S-E-C-R-E-T

Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification

S-E-C-R-E-T

SUBJECT: Letter of Information, 24 February 1966

An article by North Vietnam Defense Minister Vo Nguyen Giap, characterized by intelligence analysts and newspaper commentators alike as a significant and authoritative reaffirmation of Hanoi's current policy, was published in two Daily Report supplements, the first containing excerpts transmitted by VNA and monitored by Okinawa Bureau and the second being an expanded version published in NHAN DAN and translated by Saigon Bureau. The first, advance supplement was produced within two hours of an urgent request by the DDCI. The second Giap supplement is eliciting consumer demand similar to that of the 3 September 1965 Lin Piao supplement for which requests are still being received.

Other Vietnam-related services included: advance copies of the FBIS reaction report on the State of the Union message and of a 14 January speech by General Ky, for the White House and NSC staffs; copies of all RPD publications on Vietnam since October 1965, for overnight delivery to the OCI Watch Office, and tapes of Hanoi's "Radio Stateside" broadcasts, reportedly containing recordings made by an American citizen in Los Angeles, for the FBI. The Editorial Division on Saturday 19 February met a crash White House request for all monitored Liberation Radio references to the 37-day bombing pause in Vietnam and verbal attacks on Premier Ky and the Saigon Government during the period.

Prompt use of other FBIS-monitored material on Vietnam was indicated in several cables from the Saigon Embassy to the State Department reporting Hanoi's treatment of the State of the Union message, the Mansfield report, and a 3 February North Vietnam Foreign Ministry memorandum. During Vice President Humphrey's visit to Saigon, Headquarters responded to a Saigon Bureau request for a special roundup of noncommunist reaction to the Honolulu Conference. (SECRET)

2. Progress on Bangkok: Mid-February saw a breakthrough in prolonged FBIS efforts to establish a small Southeast Asia monitoring station in Bangkok when Graham A. Martin, U.S. Ambassador to Thailand, agreed to an operation involving no more than three Staff, six foreign national, and six local employees. FBIS must now seek approval of the required positions and funds for the operation, which would permit removal from Saigon of monitoring not directly related to Vietnam, provide some additional coverage of Southeast Asia broadcasts, and serve as an emergency relocation site for Saigon Bureau. (SECRET)

3. African Bureau Situation: On 17 February the Nigerian External Telecommunications Company announced the lifting of restrictions on the transmission of messages, and the Federal Government in Lagos lifted press censorship the same day. Previously, the Chief of the African Bureau had been able to establish that material from the government-controlled radios was suitable for transmission out of Nigeria, and the content of the bureau's file appeared normal in the weeks following the 15 January Army coup. However, there were serious communications outages, particularly during the second week of February. In view of this the East Coast Bureau and BBC monitoring units continued to protect African coverage. (SECRET)

S-E-C-R-E-T

SUBJECT: Letter of Information, 24 February 1966

4. Mediterranean Bureau Developments: The Mayor of Kyrenia, Stelios Catsellis, and Assistant District Officer Stephanides have volunteered to support FBIS' case against routing the new Karavas bypass close to the Mediterranean Bureau, with the Mayor affirming that the bureau is more important to Kyrenia than the road. Meanwhile funds have been approved for part of the new road, though not for the Kyrenia-Karavas section.

There were indications that lack of progress in mediation of the Cyprus dispute and a shortage of funds could force withdrawal of the U.N. peace-keeping force in six months. The force already has been reduced somewhat and it is likely that it will be further reduced in the coming months.

There has been some improvement in the schooling situation, with one monitor's son recently admitted to the Junior School and admission of another monitor's daughter scheduled for next fall. (SECRET)

5. Saigon Situation: Though there were considerable outages on the new Saigon-Washington allocated communications circuit during the initial period following its activation on 6 January, nevertheless communications with Headquarters were greatly improved. The more rapid communications permitted Saigon Bureau editors to file more preliminary FYI's for use by the Wire. The Bureau's new emergency generator has been installed. (UNCLASSIFIED)

6. Washington Blizzard: The Washington area suffered a severe storm during the weekend of 29-30 January with up to 16 inches of snow, low temperatures, and high winds which caused repeated drifting and seriously restricted the movement of Headquarters personnel for several days. With all but emergency road traffic at a standstill over the weekend, the Wire Service was manned largely by volunteers able to reach Headquarters on foot, but it was still necessary for some personnel to work double shifts and to stay nights at nearby motels to insure continuity of operations. Despite severe restrictions on travel Monday, 31 January--officially announced as a nonwork day for Government employees generally--a good representation of key editorial and Headquarters staff personnel managed by various means to report for work. However, a combination of typing, reproduction, and distribution problems forced cancellation of the Daily Report for the second time in FBIS' 25-year history. The East Coast Bureau was marooned on 30 January and operations were delayed for three hours until a minimal crew arrived at the station to handle urgent material. By midday on 31 January the bureau had resumed normal operations. Sixteen Headquarters employees and seven East Coast Bureau staff members who had overcome the snow drifts and worked long hours at considerable inconvenience received written commendations. (FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

7. Caribbean Bureau Progress: The Arden Construction Company of Puerto Rico was awarded the contract for building the Caribbean Bureau's operations and auxiliary buildings on 18 February. TRG West, the company which contracted to erect the wire grid lens antenna, is expected to complete its work within six weeks. Though final testing of the antenna must await completion of the main radio room of the operations building, partial use can be made by connecting feeds to the transportable monitoring unit.

S-E-C-R-E-T

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SUBJECT: Letter of Information, 24 February 1966

Senior Editor [] and East Coast Bureau Monitor [] arrived in Puerto Rico on TDY in late January, and Electronic Specialist [] on 21 February. Senior Editor [] and Headquarters teletypist [] will be assigned to the new bureau on PCS in mid-March. East Coast Bureau monitor [] will begin two months' TDY in late February. The unit was filing an average of 5,000 words a day as of 1 February. Following reception checks during February, consideration is being given to moving the Dominican monitoring operation to quarters in Mayaguez temporarily, thus freeing the TUM for possible emergency use elsewhere and easing transportation problems. Permanent quarters for nine families, including those of personnel already assigned on PCS, have been rented. (FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

8. Special Services: Recent requests for language-training tapes were filled by Mediterranean Bureau (Arabic from Amman, Beirut, and Cairo); African Bureau (Yoruba, Swahili, and Hausa), and West Coast Bureau (Peking). The German Bureau supplied a tape of an item broadcast by Radio Volga, and the National Broadcasting Company was loaned three tapes of speeches by Robert Williams over Radio Free Dixie for use in preparation of a television program. In response to strong interest by a consumer, a three-month check is being made of the content of Tashkent broadcasts in Uighur. London Bureau is supplying program summaries from belts recorded at Mediterranean Bureau.

Concurrent with the publication of all available Phnom Penh material on the flow of arms into Cambodia from foreign sources, Saigon Bureau is meeting a request from the office of the Commandant, U.S. Marine Corps, for full filing of all broadcast references to traffic through the port of Sihanoukville.

In support of the Investigating and Surveys Group, House Appropriations Committee, FBIS recently supplied four tape recordings sampling interference in the high-frequency broadcasting bands, provided by the Panama, East Coast, Mediterranean, and Okinawa Bureaus, and a study entitled "A Long-Range View of the Monitoring Problem Resulting from Progressive Congestion of High-Frequency Broadcasting Bands."

The Cuban Review, a weekly selection of Havana items of an inciting nature supplied by East Coast Bureau to Agency and State Department consumers, was discontinued 17 February after a check with the recipients. (CONFIDENTIAL)

9. Lateral Services: London Bureau resumed full service to the U.S. delegation to the Geneva Disarmament Conference on 25 January, filing a special disarmament roundup, the Soviet and East European Review, and individual Bloc items as warranted. Upon request, the Mediterranean Bureau recently supplied the American Embassy, Teheran, with current information on the location of the National Voice of Iran. Recipients of the German Bureau's Weekly Review of the East German Press were increased by four, and two established consumers requested and were granted additional copies. USIS Bonn was added as a recipient of the bureau's wirefiled Review of West German Broadcasts and Newspapers.

- 4 -

S-E-C-R-E-T

S-E-C-R-E-T

SUBJECT: Letter of Information, 24 February 1966

In support of military operations in Vietnam, the Okinawa Bureau prepared translations in Thai, Vietnamese, and Korean of a pamphlet on emergency procedures for the C-130 transport aircraft. The bureau also provided the S-2, U.S. Army First Special Forces Group, with all Hanoi radio material dealing with the two NCO's, Smith and McClure, who were released by the Viet Cong after two years' imprisonment. Officers from two other Army components visited the bureau to hear tape recordings of a Saigon-monitored Hanoi broadcast containing recorded statements alleged to be in the voices of the two NCO's.

At London Bureau's request, the Panama Bureau filed to the BBC pertinent broadcast material on British Foreign Secretary Michael Stewart's South American tour. The Bureau also supplied the Panama Canal Company's information officer with tapes of the 26 January session of the Panamanian National Assembly session. (SECRET)

10. Use of FBIS Materials: During a tour of VOA facilities by FBIS staffers on 11 February the chief of VOA's News Division emphasized the importance of FBIS material. He noted that although VOA policy normally requires confirmation from at least two sources before a news report is broadcast, FBIS items are usually carried without confirmation. The Saigon Bureau provided a copy of the DRV-USSR communique on the Shelepin visit to Hanoi to Secretary Rusk' aide during the secretary's 24-hour stopover in Saigon. The Bureau also gave JUSPAO information on communist broadcasts in Vietnamese for a briefing of VOA Director John Chancellor. Eleven percent of the items appearing in the OCI Digest during the month of January were based wholly or in part on FBIS-monitored items. On 31 January, the high-level version of the OCI Digest carried almost verbatim the FBIS Bulletin on reaction of the resumption of bombing of North Vietnam. (CONFIDENTIAL)

11. Radio Propaganda Reports: The Sino-Soviet confrontation at the Havana Tricontinental Conference was examined in CD. 265, in response to expressions of interest from an Agency component, State/INR, and USIA. Another Propaganda Report reviewed Fidel Castro's 2 January revolution anniversary speech in the perspective of his past anniversary pronouncements on the state of Cuban domestic and foreign affairs. Copies of the 3 January Radio Propaganda Report on Moscow broadcasts in Quechua, prepared with the support of the Panama Bureau, have been exhausted by an extraordinary consumer demand. The Agency released the report to the Chilean Government, and the U.S. delegation to the United Nations requested permission to show it to U.N. delegates from Peru, Ecuador, Bolivia, Argentina, and Brazil. (CONFIDENTIAL)

12. Havana Tricontinental Conference: The Tricontinental Conference held in Havana 3-15 January prompted many requests both for extra copies of Latin America Daily Reports and for Spanish transcripts and tapes of material, including two transcripts of Fidel Castro's two-hour closing speech. East Coast Bureau was particularly helpful in meeting these requests. Special requests for extra Daily Reports included two from the State Department for copies to be used by an OAS Council session and by a special OAS committee charged with reporting on the conference material in depth. (UNCLASSIFIED)

S-E-C-R-E-T

SUBJECT: Letter of Information, 24 February 1966

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13. Moscow TV Monitoring: Executive Officer [] and Project Engineer [] visited Wright-Patterson Air Force Base at Dayton on 2 and 3 February to discuss Moscow TV Monitoring with Air Force Foreign Technology Division personnel. FTD is planning to re-equip the TV monitoring operation which it has been conducting in Moscow in conjunction with military attaché personnel there, first under the name "Blue Racer" and now "Dog Ears." The main purpose of the meeting was to determine precisely what the FTD proposals were and how its effort might be dovetailed with planned FBIS TV monitoring of programs for Eastern Europe and FBIS' overall responsibility for foreign television monitoring as stipulated in NSCID No. 2. Although one of the main purposes of the FTD re-equipping program is to provide compatible videotapes to meet intelligence community requirements, the Moscow operation will continue to suffer from the inability of personnel there to expand their activities much beyond the monitoring of programs dealing with military hardware and space technology. Adequate CIA/DIA coordination must be developed for proper exploitation of "Dog Ears" output. (SECRET) 50X1

14. Briefings and Visits: [] FBIS Executive Officer, and [] Chief, Field Operations Staff, discussed broadcast monitoring for the National Interdepartmental Seminar on Counterinsurgency, held at Arlington Towers on 27 January. [] was recently briefed at Headquarters and the East Coast Bureau. Another Headquarters briefing was held for two STRICOM NCO's and an officer from the 5th Air Force, Fuchu, Japan. The Mayor of Kyrenia, Stelios Catsellis, visited the Mediterranean Bureau 7 January. A group of Naval officers was invited to Key West Bureau to view live television coverage of the 2 January Cuban Independence Day parade. Muhammadu Carpenter, new Secretary for Security Affairs in the Northern Region Government, whose predecessor Ahmed Ben-Musa was killed in the recent Nigerian Army coup, visited the African Bureau 27 January. (CONFIDENTIAL) 50X1

15. Addressing Administrative Messages: Normally, lateral administrative messages between bureaus are not, and should not be, seen by Headquarters components. However, the appropriate Headquarters Staff officer should be included as an information addressee if a message contains timely, pertinent information which Headquarters should be aware of. The same rule of thumb applies to filing information copies to appropriate bureaus. (FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

FIELD OPERATIONS AND ENGINEERING

16. Broadcasting Developments: The clandestine "Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan, which was detected last September but was generally unmonitorable until January, recently was placed on regular coverage by the Mediterranean Bureau. Using two transmitters, both of which are jammed extensively, the station broadcasts twice daily, one hour in Kurdish and one hour in Arabic, with an additional special news program in English, Persian, and Turkish on Saturday. The station supports the Kurdish leader Mustafa al-Barzani in his rebellion against the Iraqi Government.

S-E-C-R-E-T

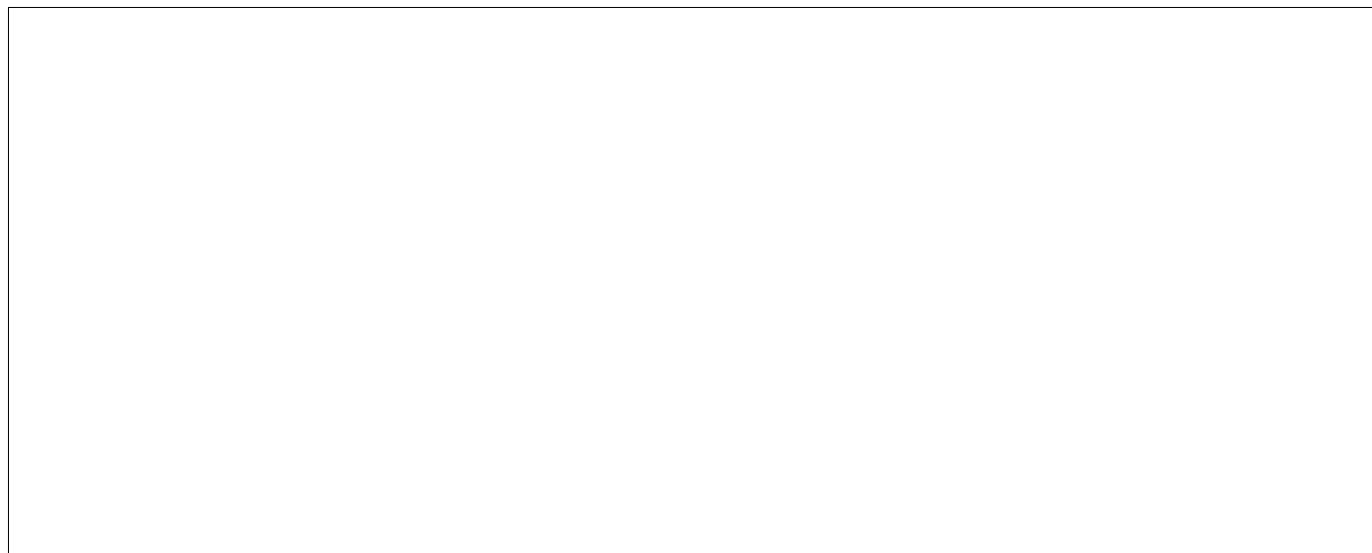
SUBJECT: Letter of Information, 24 February 1966

During the past month, several countries have added new languages to their international broadcasts. East Germany now broadcasts in Indonesian, Japan inaugurated Burmese, South Africa introduced Zulu to its African service, and both Tanzania and Zambia added Shona and Ndebele--important vernaculars of Rhodesia. No FBIS coverage is possible at this time. (FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

17. Tagalog Monitoring: FBIS, which has no Tagalog language capability, recently arranged for FDD to translate sample broadcasts from Peking in Tagalog to the Philippines. A report on the results has been requested by the American Embassy, Manila, and the BBC. (CONFIDENTIAL)

18. Key West TV Interference: Possible future interference with Key West Bureau's monitoring of Havana television by signals from the Coral Television Company's new channel 6 (WCIX) station was discussed recently by Engineering Staff members and representatives of the Federal Communications Commission in an effort to find a technical solution acceptable to both FBIS and the television company. (CONFIDENTIAL)

ADMINISTRATION



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EDITORIAL

1. Flagging Messages: Bureaus are requested to review requirements for flagging editorial items to appropriate Headquarters components. Recently there have been numerous instances of failure to flag items for RPD, the Library, Liaison, MOS, etc.

2. Editorial Guidance: The legal name of the White House Press Secretary is Bill D. Moyers. Copy received from the field sometimes refers to William Moyers.

The original purpose of repeating the word "not" in copy is defeated when the practice is extended to such words as "now" and "no." It has been found that teletypists inadvertently, and through force of habit, often render such combinations as NOW RPT NOT or NO RPT NOT, thus leaving the reader completely in doubt. Therefore as a general rule this device should be restricted to the word "not."

ADMINISTRATION

3. Property Disposition Request: Bureau requests to Headquarters for disposition of obsolete equipment or surplus property should cite the appropriate serial number(s) whenever possible.

4. T&A Form 1027: Dollar signs and decimal points should not be used on the "Pay this Period" line of T&A Form 1027, even in those blocks containing both local and U.S. currency amounts. When the amounts of both currencies are shown, the local currency figure should be entered above that of U.S. currency. The Administrative Staff has been advised that unless more care is taken to keep figures within the appropriate blocks on the "Pay this Period" line, T&As will be returned to the bureaus for proper preparation. Compliance with the above procedures will save payroll personnel many manhours.

5. Tax Year 1965: W-2 forms issued for tax year 1965 contained salary earnings and tax withholdings for 27 pay periods instead of the normal 26 pay periods. Thus the tax year covered pay for the period 6 December 1964 through 18 December 1965.

6. Subobject Class 2101: Local travel costs such as streetcar, bus, and taxi fares, ferry fares and tolls, and mileage for official use of privately owned vehicles that are not related to PCS or R&R travel should be charged to Subobject Class 2101.

SUBJECT: Letter of Information, 24 February 1966

PERSONNEL

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7. New Employees

Assignment

Typist, Publications Branch, Editorial Division
Teletypist, East Coast Bureau
Analyst, Bloc Internal Affairs Branch, Radio
Propaganda Division

8. Reassignments

From

To

Editor
Editorial Division

Editor
East Coast Bureau

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Editor
East Coast Bureau

Editor, Wire Service Br.
Editorial Division

Monitor
East Coast Bureau

Monitor
Key West Bureau

Typist
West Coast Bureau

Typist
Radio Propaganda Division

Editor
Editorial Division

Editor
Austrian Bureau

Monitor
Key West Bureau

Monitor
East Coast Bureau

9. Separation

From

Teletypist, East Coast Bureau

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ROGER G. SEELY

Director

Foreign Broadcast Information Service